

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

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P R 221604Z JUN 78

FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO USDOC WASHDC PRIORITY

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 1196

USDOC SAN JUAN PUERTO RICO

UNCLAS NASSAU 1352

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, BF, RQ

SUBJECT: PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION SCHEDULE

REF USDOC 11210 PRIORITY

1. INFORMATION CITED IN REFTEL, PARA 4, IS INCORRECT.

2. JULIO A. BLASINI, ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF COMMERCE FOR FOREIGN TRADE, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE OF PUERTO RICO, CONTACTED EMBASSY OFFICIAL JUNE 15 STATING THAT TRADE MISSION WOULD ARRIVE NASSAU JULY 18. BLASINI MADE NO MENTION OF ADVANCE OFFICER SCHEDULE. HOWEVER, BLASINI WAS INFORMED THAT EMBASSY HAD NOT BEEN ASKED FOR APPROVAL OF TRADE MISSION TO COME TO NASSAU EITHER VIA LETTER OR VIA USDOC WASHINGTON CHANNELS AND THAT EMBASSY APPROVAL FOR TRADE MISSION HAD NOT BEEN GIVEN.

3. EMBASSY WISHES TO POINT OUT PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION LAST VISITED NASSAU IN OCTOBER 1977. IN ABSENCE OF OPENING OF DIRECT SHIPPING ROUTE AND/OR AIR TRANSPORTATION FROM NASSAU OR FREEPORT TO SAN JUAN OR PONCE DURING LAST EIGHT MONTHS, WE DO NOT CONSIDER ADDITIONAL PUERTO RICAN TRADE PROMOTIONAL UNCLASSIFIED

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EFFORTS IN THE BAHAMAS TO BE WORTHWHILE. GIVEN THE ADDED TRANSPORTATION COSTS (VIA MIAMI) MANUFACTURED AND AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS FROM PUERTO RICO ARE MUCH LESS COMPETITIVE THAN SAME PRODUCTS ORIGINATING IN MAINLAND U.S.

4. IN LIGHT OF ABOVE AND ADDITIONALLY BECAUSE

INFORMATION IN REFTEL PARA 3 WAS NEVER PROVIDED
BY PUERTO RICAN DEPARTMENT OF TRADE, WE RECOMMEND
AGAINST APPROVAL OF PUERTO RICAN TRADE MISSION IN
CALENDAR YEAR 1978.
TAYLOR

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